[English]

Conversion of Karur-Tutikorin Line

698. SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to convert Karur-Dindigul-Madurai-Tutiocrin section into broad-gauge; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Karur-Dindigul- Madurai-Maniyuchchi- Tuticorin/ Talaiythu project is being taken up in stages. Parallel BG line from Maniyachchi to Talaiyuthu/Milavittan was commissioned in May, 1985 and assisted siding to Tuticorin Harbour was commissioned in April, 1986. New BG rail line from Karur-Dindigul was commissioned in August, 1988. Parallel BG line from Dindigul to Madurai is targeted for completion in 1992-93. work on Madurai-Maniyachi section has been taken up and its completion would depend upon availability or resources in the coming years.

Opening of More Navodaya Vidyalayas

699. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Navodaya Vidyalayas at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total number of Navodaya Vidyalayas the Government propose to set up in the country, State-wise during 1991-92 particularly in Pauri Garhwai and Chamoli Districts of U.P.;

(c) the criteria fixed by the Government for opening Navodaya Vidyalaya and the rules governing admission of students therein;

(d) whether the Government have undertaken any survey to analyse the performance of these institutions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) State-wise break-up of 275 Navodaya Vidyalayas opened so far is given in the attached Statement-I

(b) So far 14 Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened during 1991-92 and 5 more have been sanctioned. State-wise list is given in the attached Statement-II. A Navodaya Vidyalaya is already functioning at District Chamoli.

(c) The Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme envisages opening of Navodaya Vidyalayas, on an average one in each District of the country. The location is selected based on the offer of the State Government/UT Administration in the first instance. Thirty acres of land, free of cost and adequate buildings are provided initially by the concerned State/ UT Administration for running the Vidyalaya initially for 2-3 years. The location of these Vidyalayas, as far as possible, would be in rural areas. Admission in Navodaya Vidyalayas is made at class VI on the basis of a test designed & conducted by the NCERT. At least 75% of the seats are filled by candidate selected from rural areas and not more than 25% are from urban areas. Reservation of seats for SC/ST is provided in proportion to their population in the concerned District provided that in no district such reservation is less than the national